

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

December 8, 2003

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS)	DOCKET NO.
TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)	03-00533
BETWEEN BELL SOUTH)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND GLOBAL)	
CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA)	

**ORDER APPROVING
FIRST SET OF AMENDMENTS TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Director Pat Miller, Director Sara Kyle and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 24, 2003, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the first set of amendments to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Global Connection Inc. of America.

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on April 11, 2003, and was assigned Docket No. 03-00282. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on July 7, 2003. The first set of amendments, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on September 29, 2003.

Based upon a review of the amendments, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

2) The amendments are in the public interest as they provide consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the service area of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

3) The amendments are not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendments are consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

6) The amendments are reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the first set of amendments to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Global Connection, Inc. of America is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.

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Pat Miller, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Kyle", written over a horizontal line.

Sara Kyle, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Jones, Director